JAPAN EAST TIMOR MEMO

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No. 1 (March 18, 1988) New Zealand position on ET

Mr. Satsuki Eda, president of the Social-Democratic League and secretary of the Dietmen's Forum to Think about East Timor*, has received an answer to his question regarding the New Zealand position on East Timor from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the New Zealand government. The position is the one which gives "de facto" recognition to the integration of ET by Indonesia. Attached is the letter.

Jakarta Post (Jan. 9, '88) reported that New Zealand would provide Rp. 535 million for Indonesia for Unicef programs in East Timor. Attached is the article.

* The Dietmen's Forum to Think about East Timor is formed by concerned parliamentarians in November 1986 on the occasion of the visit by Mgr. Lopes da Costa and Mimi Ferreira. It has now 72 supporters. The address is as follows.

c/o Mr. Satsuki Eda
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JAPAN

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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58/268/1

24 February 1988

Dr Satsuki Eda
House of Representatives
T100 no 725 Shugiin-Kaikan No 2
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TOKYO 102

Dear Dr Eda

We have received a letter from Dr Kevin Clements, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Canterbury University, informing us of his meeting with you in Japan late last year and asking us if we would provide you with an outline of New Zealand's policy on East Timor. Dr Clements also asked us if we would inform you whether New Zealand would apply the British and Australian principle of recognising states rather than governments and use this to resume full diplomatic relations with Fiji; and whether New Zealand approved of a heightened Japanese profile in the South Pacific.

In answer to your first question, I enclose a brief paper on New Zealand's policy towards East Timor.

Regarding your second question, you may be aware that our Minister of Foreign Affairs has recently announced the

resumption of New Zealand's aid to Fiji. In his statement, a copy of which is attached, the Minister commented that, for New Zealand, 'recognition' was not the issue. "The key question for us is the nature and level of our dealings with other governments".

By way of background to this comment, we should explain that New Zealand has traditionally adopted a pragmatic approach to the question of 'recognition', generally preferring to leave this question to be inferred from our dealings with a new government rather than to have it based on a formal act of recognition. The Minister's comments reflect that approach.

Finally, with regard to Japan's relations with the South Pacific, as Pacific neighbours with common views on most major issues, it is natural that both New Zealand and Japan share a mutual concern for the stability and well-being of our region. The New Zealand Government therefore welcomed, and indeed offered full support and cooperation to the Japanese Government for Japan's public statement of commitment to the South Pacific as outlined last year by former Foreign Minister Kuranari (the "Kuranari Doctrine")

I trust that these brief notes will assist you with your enquiries and thank you for your close interest in our country's foreign policy.

Yours sincerely

(M J Powles)
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs

EAST TIMOR: THE NEW ZEALAND POSITION

The New Zealand Government has made it clear from the outset that New Zealand does not support or condone the integration of East Timor into Indonesia by use of force. Between 1975 and 1978 New Zealand abstained in United Nations General Assembly votes on East Timor. In 1979 New Zealand altered its position to vote against the inscription of the question of East Timor on the agenda for UNGA debate, on the basis that the incorporation of the territory into Indonesia was irreversible, and because of regional political considerations there was little to be gained by keeping the subject under review. New Zealand has in effect recognised Indonesian jurisdiction and sovereignty over the territory. (It is quite clear that a legal distinction between "de facto" and "de jure" sovereignty cannot in fact be sustained.)

The New Zealand Government remains deeply concerned by continued reports of human rights abuses in East Timor, and these concerns have been made known to the Indonesian Government. New Zealand has made sizeable contributions to the UNICEF Village Nutrition Programme in East Timor over the past two years and will continue to do what it can to improve the welfare of the people of East Timor.

New Zealand Embassy staff from Jakarta visit East Timor at least annually. Although visits are restricted and there is an element of stage management, conditions in the province do seem to be gradually improving. There is evidence that the Indonesian Government is putting a lot of funds and effort into the economic and social development of East Timor, notably in the extension of basic education and health services.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
WELLINGTON

February 1988

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

9 FEBRUARY 1988

PRESS RELEASE : AID RESTORED TO FIJI

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon Russell Marshall, today announced the resumption of New Zealand's aid to Fiji.

"This decision acknowledges recent developments in Fiji, namely the return to civilian government and moves to restore the rule of law," Mr Marshall said.

"The main aim is to help Fiji get its economy back on the rails and return as soon as possible to constitutional government.

"The resumption of this assistance does not signify a return to normal relations. Our fundamental objections to the two coups remain.

"Further development of our relationship will depend on how events in Fiji evolve. Before we get back to where we were before the coups we will need to see the contents of the new constitutional arrangements and their acceptability to the major communities in Fiji."

"I stress that military aid is not included in the present package," said Mr Marshall.

"Some people will ask whether we are now joining other states in recognising Fiji."

"For New Zealand recognition is not the issue. The key question for us is the nature and level of our dealings with other governments.

"In this context we expressed our strong disapproval of the coups, substantially reducing the level of our aid and other dealings with the new authorities in Fiji.

"We are now restoring aid and are working out the details.

" I hope future events in Fiji will enable us to develop the relationship further."

O.T.

E. Timor gets assistance from NZ

JP 9-1-'88

JAKARTA (Antara): The Government of New Zealand has agreed to provide Rp 535 million for the Indonesian Government programs for children and women in East Timor and other provinces in the eastern part of the country, it was learnt here Friday.

The assistance, provided through the United Nations Children Fund (Unicef), will be used for the Project of Basic Services for Children, Mothers and their families in East Timor and for the expansion of integrated health service posts (Posyandus) in East Timor and other eastern province which will take up the remaining US$125,000.

The Representative Office of Unicef here said that for the project of basic services in East Timor, the funds will support activities in nutrition and growth monitoring of children, maternal and child health including immunization, training for health center staff and health workers, women in development activities, in particular those undertaken by the Family Welfare Movement (PKK), and water supply and environmental sanitaion.